

Message Text

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12

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /053 W

----- 033735

R 242146Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8704

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2945

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, CASC, SOCI

SUBJ: DETENTION OF HOLY CROSS FATHER

1. SUMMARY. AMCIT HOLY CROSS FATHER BRIEFLY DETAINED BY CHILEAN SECURITY FORCES EVENING MAY 7. EMBASSY PLANS TO RAISE INCIDENT INFORMALLY WITH FON MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 8 FATHER ROBERT PLASKER, SUPERIOR, DISTRICT OF CHILE, CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS, REPORTED TO US CONSUL THAT AMCIT MEMBER OF HIS ORDER, FATHER DANIEL PANCHOT, HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY GOC SECURITY FORCES IN HOLY CROSS RESIDENCE IN WORKERS' NEIGHBORHOOD OF LA PALENA, NEAR SANTIAGO AT APPROXIMATELY 8:00 THE PREVIOUS EVENING. ACCORDING TO PLASKER, PANCHOT WAS TAKEN TO ANOTHER HOLY CROSS RESIDENCE IN NEARBY "POBLACION" SAN ROQUE AND RELEASED. FATHER PLASKER REPORTS THAT DURING THE SEARCH OF ONE OF THE HOLY CROSS RESIDENCES, THE EQUIVALENT OF \$65 IN CHILEAN MONEY WAS STOLEN. PANCHOT WAS NOT PHYSICALLY HARMED

3. UPON REPORTING INCIDENT TO CONSUL, PLASKER WAS ASKED TO PROVIDE WRITTEN STATEMENT OUTLINING EVENTS. HE DID SO ON MAY 13. EMBASSY'S INTENTION WAS TO CALL EVENT TO ATTENTION OF GOC FON MINISTRY IN FORMAL NOTE CITING ARTICLE 36 OF 1964 VIENNA CONSULAR AUTHORITIES. OUR READING OF THAT ARTICLE HOWEVER LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT INFRACTION OF IT POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN DETAINEE HAS MADE SPECIFIC REQUEST TO SPEAK WITH CONSULAR AUTHORITIES OR HAVE THEM NOTIFIED OF HIS DETENTION. IN NEITHER HIS PERSONAL CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL NOR HIS MEMO DID PLASKER MENTION THAT

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PANCHOT HAD MADE SUCH A REQUEST.

4. DURING PAST WEEK EMBOFFS HAVE TRIED TO CONTACT PLASKER AND PANCHOT TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS. CONTACT FINALLY ESTABLISHED MAY 23 WITH PLASKER WHO CONFIRMED THAT PANCHOT HAD NOT RPT NOT MADE THE REQUEST. PLASKER ALSO REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER HARASSMENT OF HOLY CROSS FATHERS SINCE THAT TIME.

5. OUR PRESENT INTENTION IS TO RAISE THIS MATTER INFORMALLY WITH FONMINISTRY NEXT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, NOTING THAT SUCH INCIDENTS HARDLY CONDUCTIVE TO AMICABLE SETTLEMENT OF ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL ISSUE.
POPPER

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